

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 XMB-02 OPIC-03 IO-11 FTC-01

JUSE-00 /139 W

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R 270401Z JAN 76

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2725

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 84

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, IZ, UK, HK, US

SUBJ: IRAQI BOYCOTT OF HONG KONG: REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE

REF: STATE 294132

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. REFTEL MENTIONED AND GAVE ADVICE ABOUT PROBLEMS CREATED
FOR US TRADE PROMOTION ACTIVITIES BY MEXICAN BOYCOTT OF SPAIN--
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IN VIEW OF USDOC CIRCULAR NO. 21 AND RECENT STATE INSTRUCTIONS.

2. IRAQ HAS IMPOSED AT LEAST A PARTIAL BOYCOTT ON PRODUCTS OF HONG KONG. REFERENCE TO THIS BOYCOTT APPEARS FROM TIME TO TIME IN IRAQI GOVERNMENT TENDER DOCUMENTS RECEIVED BY USINT-- USUALLY COUPLED WITH REFERENCE TO ONE OR MORE OTHER COUNTRIES BOYCOTTED (ISRAEL, RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA) BUT OCCASIONALLY IN ISOLATION.

3. USINT E-C OFFICER RECENTLY DISCUSSED HONG KONG BOYCOTT WITH DCM AND TWO TRADE OFFICERS OF BRITISH EMBASSY, BAGHDAD. BRITISH EMBASSY HAS LONG BEEN AWARE OF BOYCOTT BUT HAS INDICATED IT DOES NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN WHY IRAQIS HAVE IMPOSED IT, BUT SUSPECT BOYCOTT MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO IRAQI MARKET FOR PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. END UNCLASSIFIED

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

4. EMBASSY OFFICIAL ADDED THEY HAVE MADE NO EFFORTS TO FIND OUT REASONS, SINCE, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HONG KONG IS REGARDED MORE AS A COMPETITOR FOR MARKETS WITH UK THAN AS A DEPENDENCY IN NEED OF DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT. SO FAR AS BRITISH EMBASSY HERE KNOWS, HKG HAS NOT RAISED ISSUE WITH HMG AND, IF IT WERE RAISED, MATTER WOULD PROBABLY BE RESOLVED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE BY DIRECT DEALINGS BETWEEN HKG AND GOI, WITH HMG PROVIDING AT BEST DIPLOMATIC "COVER" FOR A VISITING HONG KONG DELEGATION.

5. PLEASE ADVISE US HOW WE SHOULD APPLY USDOC 21 IN RESPECT TO HONG KONG BOYCOTT.

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